



# The Line Up

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Jan Burch, Editor | Article submissions always welcome. | August, 2023

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## Fall Registration Now Open!

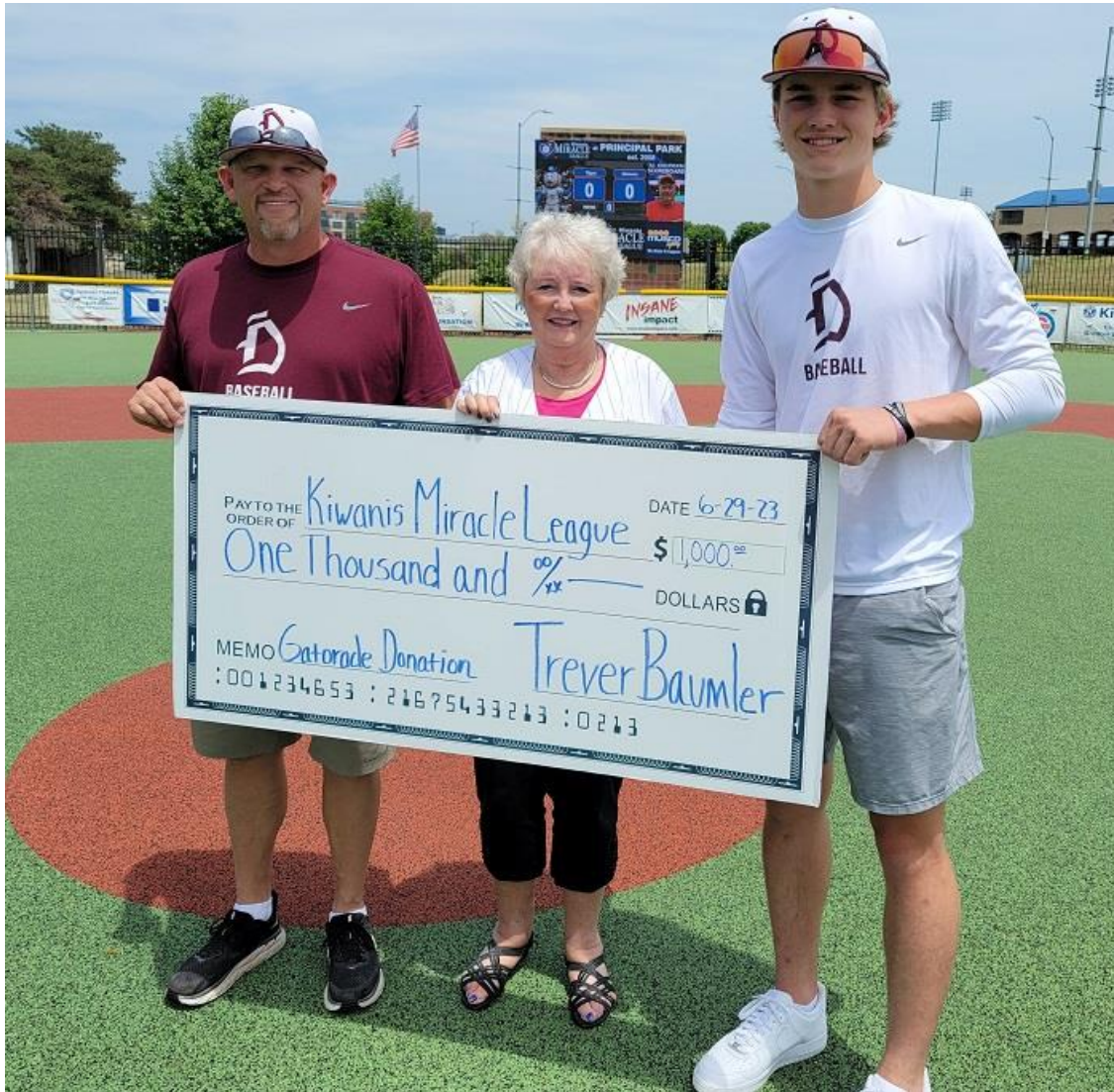
Yes, it's time to register for fall ball at the Kiwanis Miracle League. Fall season opens Saturday, August 26th, and we'll play for seven Saturdays. We hope as many as possible will be able to register by the first week of August so that we can determine the team play schedule. We may do some "doubling up" like last year, again depending on registration.



Signing up is EASY. Simply go to our website ([www.kiwanismiracleleague.org](http://www.kiwanismiracleleague.org)) and click on **REGISTER**. Or use this Registration Link:  
<https://kiwanismiracleleague.sportngin.com/register/form/701008814>

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## One of Our KML Buddies Named Iowa Gatorade High School Player of the Year!



*Dowling Catholic HS Head Baseball coach, Mark Roering; Jan Burch KML president; and Trevor Baumler, Gatorade recipient, display the "big check" at the KML ballpark.*

Trevor Baumler, Dowling Catholic HS junior, and member of the boys' baseball team, has been recognized for his gamesmanship and sportsmanship by the Gatorade Foundation.

In conjunction with this award, he has received a \$1,000 grant from the

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Gatorade Lay It Forward Initiative. This initiative empowers the student-athletes to provide resources to sports organizations in their community. All 608 Gatorade Player of the Year award winners have the opportunity to select a youth sports organization to receive the \$1,000 grant to help the next generation of athletes reap the benefits of sport. Yes, 608 awardees receive \$1,000 in Gatorade's Play It Forward program.

Having been a buddy during our spring season the last two or three years, Trevor not only enjoyed the experience but was also quick to name the Kiwanis Miracle League as the recipient of his pay-it-forward grant.

Thank you, Trevor! And congratulations for this wonderful recognition—to you, your team, and your community.

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## Coaches Needed for Fall Season

Most of our coaches sign up for both the spring season and the fall season. However, a few could only help out in the spring. So, we need three or four coaches for our fall league. Fall is always a busy time with school resuming, college football games on Saturdays, etc. But we say that if a coach can be available for 50% of the season, that works for us! So, seven Saturdays—being available three or four Saturdays would work just fine!

Signing up is EASY. Simply go to our website ([www.kiwanismiracleleague.org](http://www.kiwanismiracleleague.org)) and click on **VOLUNTEER**. Or use this Volunteer Link:  
<https://kiwanismiracleleague.sportngin.com/register/form/879111016>

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## Annual Police & Fire Night a Huge Success!

We all love having Des Moines Police officers and Fire fighters at the ballpark for an evening of fun KML baseball. They are the best buddies in the world. And June 7th was no exception. Fifty-some players had the time of their lives. We estimated seventy plus Police and Fire so there was no shortage of qualified buddies. As they say, a good time was had by all!





## The Iowa Barnstormers

Monday, June 12th, saw The Iowa Barnstormers at our ballpark, serving as buddies to our players. Not sure who had more fun—the Barnstormers or our players?







## 2022 Miracle League All-Star Weekend

The annual ALL-STAR WEEKEND, hosted by the Miracle League Association, was held in Murfreesboro, Tennessee, in early November. Tobby Givler (Cubs player) and his family were the happy recipients of the ML's scholarship (drawing of 2021 participants who can attend the following year at no cost). Having such a great time in Houston, TX the year before, the Givler's weren't about to pass up the chance for another ML weekend!

And the 2023 event will be held in Palm Beach, Florida! Leagues from around the country are invited to send two player families and one or two directors. This year, we will be represented by Max, Mia, and Meilin EVANS (Marlins) and Corbin Habeger (Brewers). In addition, Rachel McCann, a KML board member will also be attending. Look for pictures in the next issue of their good times in Florida!

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## DMPD and DMFD Spread Holiday Cheer with Shopping Spree for Local Kids

Dozens of Des Moines Police officers and firefighters became personal holiday shoppers during last year's holiday season. And several of our players got the opportunity to be some of the lucky ones to “shop until they dropped”. Dakota Beukema (Brewers), Austin Zahn (White Sox), and Selena Zahn (White Sox) found out how much fun it was to shop with the DM Police!

Here's a link showing what a good time they had!

[https://www.dsm.city/news\\_detail\\_T2\\_R604.php](https://www.dsm.city/news_detail_T2_R604.php)

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## Visitors from Tajikistan

Thanks to the Iowa International Center and the US Department of State for hosting a delegation of disability specialists from Tajikistan. KML Board

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members met with the group for an informational meeting on June 16; then we welcomed them to the KML ballpark the next day to watch some games. This group is touring various cities in the US, learning/discussing/absorbing programs here in the US that make life easier for those with special needs. They were astonished at our ballpark! Seeing kids having a great time on a specially designed field...and learning about the game of baseball as well. They do not have baseball in their country.

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## New Video Board Installation

All winter and spring your KML board members were working on the possible installation of a new scoreboard—replacing the digital board which we had used since we opened in 2008-- with an LED video board. Supply issues, weather, scheduling—all played a part in making this installation a challenge! But, thanks to Insane Impact, Musco Lighting, and our very special electrician, Joe Rivas, our board was up and ready to go by opening day, May 6th! We cannot come up with enough THANK YOU's to Insane Impact, Joe,

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and Musco for this marvelous upgrade to our ballpark. Now to figure out how to use it!

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## Video Board Dedication

It was a joyous day...and it was a sad day. On May 14th, we had a very special dedication ceremony, as we remembered our PA Guy, Al Knudsen, by naming our new video board in his memory. Friends and family gathered with us as emcee Jeff Pierson recalled special memories. Al knew all of our players—not only their names, but special things about each—like their favorite ice cream or when their birthday is. It seems only fitting that we name our video board in his memory—after all, all those beautiful kids that he knew so well will be appearing on the screen for all to see! The commemorating sign will be installed soon to remind us of what Al meant to our KML.

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## 2023 Team Sponsors

It's not too late to be a 2023 Team Sponsor. For \$500, individuals, companies, or organizations, will help keep our Kiwanis Miracle League up and running—uniforms, insurance, utilities, internet, etc. Our team sponsors are recognized with a vinyl banner on our dugouts for both the spring and fall seasons, as well as listed on our web site, and featured in Facebook posts and brochures, etc. Brochures are available at the concession stand as well as posted on our web site. Join our growing list of supporters!

### ***Kiwanis Clubs of...***

Des Moines Foundation (double)

Des Mines Golden K (triple)

### ***Corporate/Individuals***

Ann McGowan In Memory of Terry McGowan

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Christ the King Knights of Columbus # 13159 (double)  
Des Moines Police Department K-9 Unit (double)  
Danish Brotherhood Lodge #15  
Jenifer & Sendyl Butz Giving Fund of Thrivent Charitable Impact & Investing  
Marcia Munger/Keller Williams Real Estate  
SFM Mutual Insurance Company (double)  
Trevor Baumler, Iowa Gatorade Play of the Year  
Turner Construction Company

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**We Had Some Wonderful Buddies This Spring! (Groups & Individuals!)**

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Where would we be without our buddy volunteers? These special people not only help each and every player during a game, but also allow the parents/caregivers to sit in the stand, enjoy a hot dog, and be a regular spectator for 45 minutes! What a blessing!

This spring season we hoped to fill 1245 buddy spots. We were able to fill 794, or 64%--corporate groups, high school and youth teams, church groups, and many individuals. Always room for more buddies!

Opening Day, May 6, the girls' softball team from SE Polk High School engaged the ZaGaZig Shrine clowns in a fast-paced "exhibition" game and then buddied for the first two games.

**They were followed by:**

Norwalk Boys Baseball Team  
Johnston 12U Baseball Team  
Grand View University dance team  
Pena's Boxing Group

**May 13:**

Dowling Boys Baseball—Varsity, Sophomores, & Freshmen Teams

**May 20:**

Lincoln HS Girls Softball Team  
Johnston Girls Soccer Team  
Allegiant Airlines

**May 27:**

SE Polk HS Kiwanis Key Club  
Des Moines Tigers Youth Baseball Team

**June 3:**

New Life Lutheran Church

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**June 10:**

Nike Team Members, Altoona Mall

BC Youth Group

Wells Fargo Retail Services

Parrot Heads Club

Urbandale Girls Softball Team

**June 17:**

Indianola Girls Softball Team

Pella Girls Softball Team

North Polk HS Football/baseball

**June 24:**

ADM Schools Girls Softball Team

If you know of a group or individuals who would be interested in being a buddy, please have them go to our web site and click on [VOLUNTEER](#) or contact Jan Burch, volunteer coordinator at [burchhr@aol.com](mailto:burchhr@aol.com)



# Calendar of Events

**Wednesday, Aug. 2** - IA Resource for International Service—13 youth from Iraq visit as part of their three-stop two-week visit to the U.S.

**Saturday, Aug. 12** - GiGi's Playhouse Donut 5K Run, DMACC, Ankeny. 8:30 – 1 PM. (KML will have a booth at the event).

**Thursday, Aug. 17** - KML Board Meeting

**Wednesday, Aug. 19** - IA Resource for International Service—New Group

**Saturday, Aug. 26** - Fall Season Begins

**Saturday, Sept. 2** - KML Games

**Saturday, Sept. 9** - KML Games

**Saturday, Sept. 16** - KML Games

**Thursday, Sept. 21** - KML Board Meeting

**Saturday, Sept. 23** - KML Games

**Saturday, Sept. 30** - KML Games

**Saturday, Oct. 7** - Last Day of KML Games

**Sunday, Oct. 8** - End-of-Season Party (tentative)

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## Support Your KML by Supporting DMPD's Local K9 Heroes

Our Kiwanis Miracle League was chosen by the Des Moines Police Department's K-9 Unit to be its featured charity for its annual 2023 calendar campaign. Each month features one of these wonderfully smart, beautiful dogs. A few calendars remain for purchase at a much-reduced price at the Fall Merchandise Tent. Get yours soon!



🌐 KML NEWS! 🌐